Post 12-4-68

CIA Clarifies Two Authors' Status

The Central Intellignce Agency said yesterday that the co-authors of the forthcoming book, "The Fall of Khrushchev," are its men, but not its agents.

The Catholic magazine Commonweal has called the authors, William Hyland and Richard Wallace Shyrock, CIA agents and criticized the Agency for apparently continuing its "infiltration of allegedly private organizations.

The CIA replied that "Mr. Hyland and Mr. Shyrock are open employes of the CIA, publicly known as such. They are not intelligence 'agents'."

Their book, an Agency spokesman added in a statement, "is a private venture by the authors" and "does not represent official views of the Central Intelligence Agency."

The authors, both Russian affairs specialists, submitted their work to the agency, the spokesman said, only for "advice and consent on security" matters.

A spokesman for Funk & Wagnalls, which is publishing the book Dec. 11, has said the firm's contract with the two men forbids identification of the authors beyond calling them "employes of the Federal Government."

The CIA, however, said that "since early 1967, our practice has been, and remains, to advise publishing employes to identify openly with their place of employment.

"Any confusion in this case," the Agency went on, "was due to an inadvertent oversight." Hyland and Shyrock, the CIA noted, began arrangements for the book about three years ago "when Agency employes who published privately did not identify their Agency affiliation."